

the milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

September, 2015

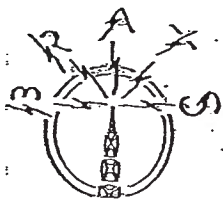
FCC Universal Licensing System, Other Applications to be Down for Maintenance

FCC website maintenance in early September will make the Universal Licensing System (ULS), the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), the Electronic Document Management System (EDOCS) and other public applications unavailable for more than 5 days. The Commission said the outage will begin at 2200 UTC on Wednesday, September 2, and continue through the Labor Day weekend. The maintenance work should be completed by 1200 UTC on Tuesday, September 8. During the ULS outage, it will not be possible to file any Amateur Radio applications.

Most Commission resources normally accessible through the Commission's website, including access to all electronic filing systems and electronic dockets, will be inaccessible for the same period, with the exception of the Network Outage Reporting System (NORS), the Consumer Help Center (CHC), and the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS), which will remain available," an FCC **Public Notice** said on August 20. "The Commission's website will remain available, but with reduced content and limited search capabilities." According to the *Public Notice*, the FCC will follow its normal schedule of operation during the maintenance period, but voicemail will be offline, and most Commission staffers will not have access to e-mail. Static content webpages on the fcc.gov domain, such as the FCC consumer guides, should remain available during the outage. The FCC will extend filing deadlines for all regulatory and enforcement filings that fall during the maintenance period. Filings due on September 2, 3, 4, or 8 now will be due on Wednesday, September 9. " (ARRL)

BOSTON ON THE MOVE:

Hams are hitting the road in Boston to assist with important public events for the benefit of that city's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The first event, the Jimmy Fund Marathon Walk, steps off on Sunday, September 27. The all-day trek, along the 26-mile route, follows the same path as the Boston Marathon, with hams providing administrative communications as well as emergency communications for medical tents and the sweep vehicles deployed to them. Hams are needed to operate on 2 meters and 440. To participate, send an email to Bob at W-A-ONE-EYE-D-A at arrl.net (WA1IDA@arrrl.net).



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The award-winning monthly
publication of The BRATS.
Items herein may be reprinted
with appropriate credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

Some Thoughts

The contest season is here. Just look at
Page 5 of this issue and see a partial list
of the major contests. You don't have
to Ooperate for 24 or 48 hours. You can
work only a few in each day in each contest.
But, try it, you'll like it... It is also an
opportunity to get several states on new
bands or modes you may not have...
Again, try it, you'll like it.
73, Mayer, W3GXX

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The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282

A non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3)
of the internal Revenue Code and a non-profit
corporation in the State of Maryland

Member: ARRL, Foundation for Amateur Radio

Home Page: <http://www.bratsatv.org>

Email: brats@bratsatv.org

Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7 PM at the
Greene Turtle, Owings Mills, MD or
The Pikesville Library; 1301 Reisterstown Rd.

President: Oryx Gazaella, K0RYX

Vice Pres.: Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX

Secretary: Ted Bauer, WA3AER

Treasurer: Jim Sherwood, KB3SKN

Chairman of the Board:

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

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BRATS REPEATERS

Linked, WB3DZO

147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

Stand alone:

443.350+, 224.8-

Packet Nodes:

W3GXT=5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

ATV repeaters W3WCQ

inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

Outputs: 439.25, 911.25

BRATS WEEKLY NETS

Monday 9 PM Traffic and Info

Tues. 11:45 Informal ATV

Wednes. 9 PM CATS ATV

Thurs 9 PM BRATS ATV

Sat. 1 PM Weekly News Bulletin

Sun 8 PM BRATS ATV net

AS Needed: Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors

Through December, 2015

K2GZL, N3GXH

Through December, 2016

W3MSR, K9FXV

BRATS MEETINGS

2nd Monday at 7 PM

Greene Turtle, Red Run Blvd

Owings Mills, MD.

Permanent site to be determined

NEXT BRATS MEETING

Monday, Sept. 14th, 7 PM

Greene Turtle, Red Run Blvd

Owings Mills, MD.

Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society
MINUTES of the 10 August 2015
Monthly Meeting

OryxG, K0RYX, chaired the meeting at Pikesville Library.

/REPORTS

- Minutes: Secretary's Minutes from the July meeting accepted, approved.
- Treasurer: Treasurer's report submitted. Estimate upcoming purchase of amplifiers and radios will account for remaining grant funds.
- Repeater/Equipment: Have had to reboot 2M repeater prior to Mayer's nets recently. Old PCs suspected; these are to be replaced soon.
 - New Rx site receivers and interfaces are in hand for installation.
 - 220MHz repeater will go to NS Savannah to be put in service there. Transfer will be made as repeater sites are being upgraded.
 - (4) DR-1X repeaters ordered. No ship date received to date.
 - Camera is now in place at one of our receive sites, looking at Baltimore skyline to South. Digital output now streamed on digital link network; may eventually feed ATV.

/OLD BUSINESS

- Events: MS Challenge Walk on Sep. 12-13 in Easton area. Coordinate with EdR, N3GXH, to volunteer.
- On-Line Membership System: Reportedly ready to go. Needs to be populated with membership info. Treasurer to provide list of currently paid members.
- Balloon Project: with grant work pending, realistically the launch will be Spring 2016. Payload to include SDR; discussed options for use.
- Repeater Room: No return call from Facilities Mgr. Other options are to try Security and reaching out to BaCity RACES RO.
- Meeting Venue: No site set up to replace BCPL. EdR has the lead to contact Fr. Skip. Sep. meeting will be at Greene Turtle, Owings Mills; Oryx will inquire about using the room in Oct.

/NEW BUSINESS

- Visitors: 9Z4DZ, Stephenson, from Trinidad and Tobago visited this evening. We also had a person interested in becoming an Amateur Radio operator visit.
- JOTA: Oct. 17-18 at NS Savannah: Sat. 0900-1600; Sun. 0900-1200. Training requirements: ship certification and BSA. KevinS will supply link to BSA training.
- Grant Sources: discussions pending.
- SKYWARN: 030 is the primary SKYWARN machine for the Baltimore metro area. NeilG, W3ZQI, will correct BARC info.

Ted, WA3AER,
Secretary

Talk of Pending P5 Operations So Far Remains Just Talks

Persistent optimism continues to prop up the hopes of several individual radio amateurs and groups to mount a DXpedition to the most-wanted and elusive DXCC entity on the globe — the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea (P5). To date, no recent efforts have succeeded. The latest to **announce** that plans for a P5 operation are on the verge of success are Antonio Gonzalez, EA5RM, and Manuel German, EA7AJR, both DXpedition veterans. On their fourth trip to North Korea since 2013, Gonzalez and German met on August 17 with what they described as "high-level officials" in North Korea's telecommunications ministry. In an August 17 news release, Gonzalez and German said that the officials in Pyongyang — North Korea's capital — "were very kind, receptive, and cooperative. They knew everything about ham radio, so it was really easy to talk with them about our ham radio operation project." The pair began efforts to secure permission for a North Korea operation more than 2 years ago. "If everything goes as it is going up [until] today, I can tell that we are very close to get[ting] permission," the news release concluded. (Ed.: Story continues at ARRL LETTER)

FIELD DAY WITH A TWIST

In Ireland, radio amateurs are gearing up for Field Day which, this year, offers new options for hams who'd rather not lose sleep over the contest. Instead of operating overnight, they have other options. On Sept. 5 and Sept. 6, Single Sideband Field Day will proceed as always, but this year hams can register for a restricted 6-hour section which the organizers hope will draw more operators. Although hams still need to register for the 24-hour open and restricted sections, the 6-hour portion of Field Day does not require registration. For more details and to see the rules, visit the website at triple-w-dot-irts-dot-ie-slash-contests (www.irts.ie/contests)

FILTERED OUT FOREVER

For many radio amateurs, it's the end of an era: Rockwell Collins, which designed and manufactured mechanical filters for more than two generations of hams, has discontinued the filters' production. The company posted on its website: QUOTE "Over the past several years, we have seen a dramatic reduction in demand for narrowband analog filters. Due to this and other economic reasons, Filter Products will be discontinuing its mechanical filter products in the near future." ENDQUOTE. The company acknowledged that the filters have since been eclipsed by digital signal processing, and this was a significant factor in its decision. Highly popular mainstays for many hams, the mechanical filters were valued for being able to achieve bandwidths of between 0.05 percent and 5 percent, with input and output transducers converting the electrical signal to and from mechanical vibrations. Rockwell Collins has not yet announced a date for the final production run. (ARNews)

ARRL DX BULLETIN

West Malaysia, 9M2, Special event station 910 CSB is QRV until October 31 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Scout Amateur Radio Club Owerri. 80-6 m using CW, SSB and various digital modes, QSL direct to 9W2 VVH.

SABLE ISLAND CY0, Aaron, VA1AXC, id QRV as CY0/VA1AXC until Sept. 23.

Mainly on 20 meters SSSB around 2300z. QSL direct to JE1LET

DODDECANESE, SV5, Volker, DL1ZB, is QRV as SV5/DL1ZB from KOS, IOTA EU-001 until the end of Sept. 20 to 6 meters Using SSB, RTTY, SSTV, and PSK 63. QSL to home call.

Slovak Republic, OM, Special event station OM 2015TITANIC is QRV from Bratislava During the Titanic Exhibition until the end of the year. Activity is on HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via OM2FY.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Sept. 5	Russian RTTY WW Contest
Sept 5-6	ARRL EME Contest All-Asian DX Contest, phone RSGB SSB Field Day Colorado QSO Party
Sept 6	DARC 10m Digital Contest Tennessee QSO Party
Sept 12-13	Arkansas QSO Party WAE DX Contest, SSB
Sept 19-20	ARRL 10GHz and Up Contest
Sept 26-27	Maine QSO Party Texas QSO Party
Sept 27	UBA ON Contest, 6m

GET WELL WISHES TO:
Father SKIP, N3DGY

AR Newsline DX

E5, SOUTH COOK ISLANDS

Milan, OH-K-1-D-W-C (OK1DWC), is still operating from the Rarotonga Islands as E51DWC and he plans to stay until at least through September. While working on getting RTTY in operation, Milan is active every day on SSB and CW and can be found on 160-10 meters. QSL information is on QRZ.COM.

7UO, Algeria

Members of the Algerian Amateur Radio Union will be active as 7-U-OH-A-R-U (7UOARU) between September 1st and 30th to celebrate the creation of the Algerian Amateur Radio Union. Operators will be using CW, SSB and digital modes on all HF bands. For information about the award that is available, see QRZ.com. Send QSL cards via SM4VPZ.

NH0, MARIANA ISLANDS

And finally, despite his best intentions to operate as N-H-ZERO-D-X from Saipan between Oct. 24th and 25th, Koji, JL3RDC, has had to scrap his plans. Typhoon Soudelor, which left the area a major disaster, has collapsed the radio room Koji had planned to use. There is no other information about any alternate operation. (Ohio-Penn DX newsletter, TCSWAT, Irish Radio transmitters society, DX coffee)

HAMFESTS

Saturday, October 3. Georgetown, DE
Delmarva Hamfest and Dela. State Convention
Sussex Technical HS 17099 County Seat Hwy
(Route 9) Georgetown, DE
Vic KC3BUI, 302-628-3060; Herb, KF3BT
302-629-4949; Talk- in 147.09+ PL 156.7.
Free VE testing 12:10 PM. Walk-ins welcomed

Sunday, October 4. West Friendship MD
2015 CARAFest, Howard County Fairgrounds
Route 144 at Route 32 adjacent to I-70.
Open 6 AM for tailgaters, 8 AM for public
in info@carafest.org 443-492-9501
vE Exams, DX Card Checking

NEXT BRATS MEETING

Monday, Sept. 14th, 7 PM
Greene Turtle, red Run Blvd.
Owings Mills, MD

BARC VE Exams

Our Savior Lutheran Church
141 Lavern Ave. Landsdowne
Register at 1:30; exams at 2:00
Saturdays: Sept 12, Oct. 3,
Nov 7, Dec. 5; no one admitted
after exams begin; walk-ins okay.

LARC VE EXAMS

364 Main St. Laurel,
3rd Sat. at 9 AM;
John, WB3GXW,
301-572-5124

MD Mobileers VE Exams at
National Electronics Museum,
Linthicum
4th Tuesday at 6 PM
Mike, KA2JAI, 443-310-4902
KA2JAI@arrl.net

5 MHz - Hungary issues temporary permits for 5350 to 5450 kHz

The Hungarian telecoms regulator, NMHH (The National Media & Infocommunication Authority – Hungary) following representations from the Hungarian national amateur radio society, **MRASZ**, has been issuing temporary permits for operation in the band 5350 – 5450 kHz on a Secondary basis for propagation research.

The permits are valid for three months and can be re-applied for at the conclusion of the period. All modes are permitted with a maximum power of 100W (measured at the transceiver output terminal) currently in a nominal maximum bandwidth of 3 kHz.

Hungarian amateurs apply via MRASZ for the permit, who collate the details then forward them to NMHH who issue the permit. Activity days are being organised and there is a CW beacon on 5357 kHz, at present using the callsign HA7SO, but this will change in due course to HG7BHB.

Hungarian amateurs are aware that although their permits allow them to use a band of frequencies, some countries have channelized allocations on 5 MHz and they will be respecting these also. Currently some 20 – 30 permits have been issued.

It is hoped that the situation may become more permanent later in the year.

(Info: thanks to Laszlo, HA7PL, MRASZ Secretary) **Paul G4MWO**, Editor *The 5 MHz Newsletter* via, Southgate

Milliwatt Swap Shop

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Baltimore, MD 21282-5915 or

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HRO price \$199. N3BHE

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SPECIAL: ICOM BC110 battery
charger, 12vDC, 200 ma for ICOM

T8A or equivalent, cost \$46,

Make me a reasonable offer.

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Antique radio repair, restoration
Eric WA3TAD, audio visual service,

Retro radio, 3401 Chestnut Ave.

Balto. 21211, 410-467-3620

wa3tad@comcast.net

WANTED AC Gilbert erector sets:

Old, new, large, small, need not be

Complete. CASH PAID!

Lewis, 410-296-4874.

WANTED: Manual for MFJ 1452,

WB2LOO, gkm313@verizon.net

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Your ad would have appeared here
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w3gxxk@verizon.net

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member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS

<http://www.videotapingservice.com>

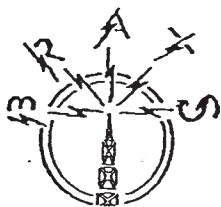
FCC fines Smart City \$750K for blocking Wi-Fi

Company Used Wi-Fi Monitoring System to Block Mobile Hotspots at Convention Centers

FCC's Enforcement Bureau has announced a \$750,000 settlement with Smart City Holdings, LLC for blocking consumers' Wi-Fi at various convention centers around the United States. Smart City, an Internet and telecommunications provider for conventions, meeting centers, and hotels, had been blocking personal mobile 'hotspots' that were being used by convention visitors and exhibitors who used their own data plans rather than paying Smart City substantial fees to use the company's Wi-Fi service.

<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-fines-smart-city-750k-blocking-wi-fi-0>

Our thanks to **Stephen, G7Vfy** for spotting this item (Southgate)



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Owings Mills, MD.

BARC Meetings

FIRST WEDNESDAY
7 PM

Wegmans Hunt Valley
upstairs dining room

Other Clubs

CARA

- o 4th Tuesday at 7:30 PM
- o Columbia Gateway Center
Room 401; Columbia, MD

AARC

Thursday, April 2, 7:30 PM
Davidsonville Family Rec.
Center, 3789 Queen Anne
Bridge Rd. Davidsonville

A SHINING BEACON

British radio amateurs now have a new UHF beacon to guide them: On Sunday, August 9, at 1225 UTC, GB3LEU became operational, transmitting on 432.490 MHz. The beacon, which is near Markfield, Leicestershire, is operated by the Leicestershire Repeater Group. The beacon keeper, Geoff, G3TQF, welcomes comments, reports and suggestions from hams. The beacon was established with assistance from the Emerging Technology Coordinating Committee and the Propagation Studies Committee of the Radio Society of Great Britain. Comments can be sent via the repeater group's website, triple-w-dot-leicestershirepeatergroup-dot-org-dot-uk. (RADIO SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN, via ARNesline))

SPECIAL EVENT

The Amateur Radio Club at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm is marking its 50th anniversary and using a special call sign for the event. They will take part in the Scandinavian Activity Contest on SSB from Sept. 24 to Sept. 25 using the call sign SA50L. QSLs should be sent via S-K-ZERO-B-U (SK0BU)

Renew: Regular \$15; retired/student/disabled \$10; Family \$20

Name _____ Call _____ e-mail _____

MAIL TO: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915; Baltimore, MD 21282-5915